

## Holiday declared

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops reinforced the southern border Wednesday to prevent six Palestinians who broke out of jail three days ago from escaping into Egypt, a newspaper reported. In the daring jail break, the six sawed off iron bars blocking a second story window, leapt into the courtyard and clambered over a wall to freedom. Israeli troops launched a massive manhunt for the fugitives, who are all from the occupied Gaza Strip, and warned the public they are dangerous. The six escaped Sunday from the prison in Asdud, Gaza City.

VIENNA. (AP) — A former Libyan ambassador to Vienna, the target of a shooting two years ago, was attacked and slightly injured Wednesday at a busy downtown square, a senior police official said. Police said at least one shot was fired during the assault...but it was unclear whether the injury was caused by a bullet. The attacker escaped on foot. A Libyan passport had been found on the scene, and it was assumed to have been lost by the attacker, police said. Police spokesmen identified the victim as Ezzeddin Ghadamsi, who resigned as ambassador to Vienna in 1980 after an apparent falling out with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. A police official who asked for anonymity said the passport found on the scene was made out to Mohammad S.A. Al Hagi, born in Tripoli, Libya, in 1957. Mr. Ghadamsi, shot five times in an assault Feb. 28, 1985 by a lone gunman, had been hospitalised in critical condition with five bullet wounds to the chest and abdomen.

**PARIS (R)**—Three French Mirage F-1 fighter planes crashed Wednesday in southeastern France while on a low-altitude training exercise, the Defence Ministry said. Two pilots were killed instantly and a third was missing after the crash outside the village of St. Chamond, northwest of Lyon, a ministry spokesman said. The ministry had and had launched an investigation to try to determine the cause of the accident, the most costly in terms of French military aircraft in recent memory, it said. The three planes, from the 30th fighter squadron based at Reims, were flying along a predetermined course as part of an exercise to test navigation skills at low altitude.

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**MOSCOW (Agencies) —** Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in an interview published on Wednesday, said Moscow would restore diplomatic relations with Israel only if the Jewish state changed its aggressive policies and there was progress for efforts for peace in the Middle East.

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In remarks to the Italian Communist Party daily l'Unita, Mr. Gorbachev also dismissed Western fears that Moscow is trying to split the United States from Western Europe and said the division of Europe contributed to stability.

The Soviet leader said the Soviet Union could accept a neutral Afghanistan and rejected China's view that the Kampuchean conflict was an obstacle to better Sino-Soviet relations.

On a possible summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, he echoed previous statements that substantive issues must be tackled.

"I won't play the tourist," he said, "but every politician must be a realist, and I think realism will win out."

On Israel, the Soviet leader remarked: "We don't have reason to assume a different attitude towards Israel than we do against any other country, except for one point — the aggressive policies of Israel in regards to the Arabs."

**Mikhail Gorbachev**

The Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow could restore relations with Israel, severed after the 1967 war, only if there was real progress towards a Middle East settlement.

On domestic Soviet issues, Mr. Gorbachev said in his interview published on Wednesday

(Continued on page 3)

BEIRUT (AP) — Saboteurs ignoring a Syrian army crackdown on bombers set off five dynamite explosions in west Beirut to end militia anarchy.

Police said gunmen in two speeding cars hurled sticks and bundles of dynamite into garbage dumps causing loud explosions and raising the number of such attacks to 116 since the Syrians moved in Feb. 22.

It was the first time that the dynamite blasts, which police say are aimed at undermining the Syrian initiative, have claimed any casualties. But three car-bomb explosions have killed eight people and wounded 19 since the Syrian intervention.

The first explosion occurred at 10:05 a.m. and the others followed within 10 minutes. Two were set off in the Tellet Al Khayat neighbourhood.

A man, police said, was wounded in an attack near a bank on the Corniche Mazraa commercial thoroughfare.

The new attack came on the heels of a report of a drive milit-

Beirut on Wednesday wounding a pedestrian.

Most Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camp of Mar Elias provided the dynamite.

Most Palestinians in Lebanon support Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat who has been at odds with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for four years.

Pro-Syrian Lebanese leaders have charged Mr. Arafat was behind the bombings to discredit the Syrians.

Brigadier Ghazi Kana'an, Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, charged on Monday that Mr. Saab was taking orders from the PSP's overall security chief, Jamal Karara, known as Abu Haitham.

In the interview, Mr. Saab said: "Abu Haitham issued the orders. He told us he would execute us if we failed to obey."

The PSP withheld comment.

It was not clear who conducted the interview, said Mr. Saab, or

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday Israeli efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference were dead and declared that he would fight hard to prevent a break-up of the government over the issue.

"The initiative of an international conference is already non-existent. In order to do a far-reaching thing like this, the support of all the government is needed," Mr. Shamir said in an interview on Armed Forces radio.

Mr. Shamir is firmly opposed to plans by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to convene a U.N.-sponsored conference which would pave the way for negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

"There may be a demolition team, but I do not think it will succeed in breaking up the government. I am guarding the national unity government and

Mr. Saab, a Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) security officer, admitted in an interview with the state television Tunes' night news program of Sept. 30 that he had expelled some 7,500 Syrian soldiers from Lebanon in 1982, where he spoke. The interviewer did not appear on camera and the voice was not that of the familiar Lebanese television announcers.

Security sources said Mr. Karara served with Mr. Ararafa's Forces as an elite unit intelligence officer, until the PLO withdrawal from Lebanon in 1982.

Mr. Peres' Labour Party has repeatedly called for early elections over Likud's refusal to

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Three policemen were killed and 10 people injured Wednesday when two bombs exploded outside a Johannesburg courthouse, police said.

Police spokesmen at the Pretoria headquarters said they could not recall any previous bombings in which as many policemen were killed.

The blasts occurred on the fourth anniversary of the deadliest guerrilla bombing attack in South Africa, when 19 people were killed and more than 300 injured by a car bomb that exploded outside an office building in Pretoria.

The ANC, the main guerrilla

roof of a nearby building.

Baram told reporters: "At this moment, there is no majority in the Knesset (parliament) for early elections. It can happen in two, two-and-a-half months and then elections can be held at the end of 1987."

The coalition united on Tuesday to defeat no-confidence motions on Middle East peace

men had been killed.

A smaller blast at the courthouse entrance followed by a more powerful one in a car a minute later, occurred about 2:30 p.m. at the magistrate's court building at the edge of the city's financial district.

Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok blamed the African National Congress (ANC) for the blasts.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said six policemen were injured, four seriously. Also injured were four civilians, including a black woman and her husband, police said.

The independent South African Press Association said about 10 news photographers and television cameramen were taken into custody to police headquarters where they took pictures from the

movement fighting to oust the white-led government in South Africa, claimed responsibility for that explosion but has made no specific comment on the nearly 50 bombings in South Africa since a state of emergency was declared June 12.

On Tuesday, a limpet mine exploded in a city centre office block and shopping centre, causing damage but no injuries.

Hundreds of police swooped on student hostels and a racially-mixed apartment block in Johannesburg early Wednesday, detaining a number of people, police and witnesses said.

The police said the raids were connected to their investigations into recent explosions, guerrilla activities and alleged offenses involving black trade unionists.

moves despite the cabinet deadlock over the issue.

Political analysts said Labour had the votes to pass a no-confidence motion but feared Likud would then have formed a narrow government without it.

Labour and its allies have 58 votes in the 120-seat house — enough to top the 57 votes of Likud and its allies but short of the 61-vote majority required to force an election before they are scheduled to take place in November 1988.

Explaining the Labour vote, party parliamentary leader Rafi Eidi told reporters that in a speech for the government Likud Transport Minister Haim Corfu had not rebutted the subject of an international conference and Mr. Peres' programme to advance the peace process.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti newspapers Wednesday reported plans for fresh diplomatic efforts to heal rifts between Iraq and Syria, and Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Al Qabas, which earlier reported President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held secret talks aimed at a rapprochement three weeks ago, said fresh tensions had since surfaced.

Quoting informed Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus, it said Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met secretly with Syria's Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam last Sunday and agreed to hold further talks designed to reset the stage for a formal summit.

The officials met, the sources said, following a successful trip by King Hussein to Baghdad and Damascus last week after renewed tension between the two countries.

Al Anha newspaper, quoting an unnamed member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said a PLO envoy would visit Amman within the next two days to promote fresh links on Middle East peace moves.

It said the envoy of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, expected to be either his political adviser Hani Al Hassan or PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Al Sourani, might be accompanied by Osama Al Baz, a top adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The PLO envoy, the daily said, Arafat to King Hussein relating to "a need to clarify (ties) and start a new page of political coordination between the PLO and the Arab League on the basis of February (11, 1985) agreement."

Mr. Arafat, in an Italian television interview broadcast Tuesday night and a separate interview with Epoca magazine, said the recent upsurge of PLO factions would help, not hinder, efforts to stage an international conference on Mideast peace.

Mr. Arafat said he felt the reunification of the PLO would be a positive factor in peace efforts, because "the unity of the PLO will help the unity of Arab nations."

"We Arab countries are living in the same period that you in Italy saw before the unification of

He also said the Palestine National Council (PNC), which met in Algiers last month, had passed a specific resolution "to participate in an international conference for peace in the Middle East."

The PLO leader said his group's relations at present were "difficult" with Syria, as well as with Egypt, but he described the friction with Egypt as "just a passing cloud."

"We have the fullest trust in the wisdom and patriotism of Mubarak," he said.

On Libya, Mr. Arafat said there had been "misunderstandings" in the past, but he praised the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for "working seriously to push the elements outside the PLO to

**BAGHDAD (Agencies)** — Iraqi warplanes on Wednesday shot down an Iranian F-4 jet fighter in a dog-fight over the northern Gulf, a Baghdad military spokesman said.

The incident occurred in the central sector of Israel's self-designated "security zone," a 10-to-15-kilometre wide area patrolled by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and backed by about 1,000 Israeli soldiers.

In the South Lebanese port city of Sidon, the pro-Iranian guerrilla organisation, Islamic Resistance, issued a statement saying its fighters had planted the roadside bomb near Nabatiyeh town.

It said the bomb exploded as a mechanised Israeli patrol passed by, and that an Israeli Merkava tank was destroyed and its crew killed.

An Israeli spokesman said in a statement that the explosion occurred in the last few weeks, Israel has mounted an air offensive against Palestinian camps near the South Lebanese port of Sidon after a series of Katyusha rocket attacks and attempts to infiltrate the Golan Heights.

Sidon residents said Israeli warplanes on Wednesday swept low over the city and nearby Palestinian refugee camps.

Lebanese police said six warplanes crashed the sound barrier over Sidon and the camps of Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh in repeated low runs at 5:20 a.m.

Police said Palestinian fighters fired Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles, SAM-7s, at the jets. But

He said the Iranian aircraft was spotted early Wednesday morning near a disused Iraqi oil terminal. Iraqi planes engaged it and it was seen falling in flames into the sea, he said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi jets flew 58 sorties during the day, striking Iranian military concentrations and other targets.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said an industrial unit on the outskirts of the southern Iranian city of Ahwaz was damaged by rockets fired by Iraqi jets. There were no casualties, IRNA said.

The Iranian agency said Iranian warplanes on Tuesday had

cargo was found aboard, it said.

The agency also reported that "several Iraqi gunboats" were damaged and were forced to flee when they attempted to attack Iranian positions in the Khordad, Abdullah night, in southernmost Iraq Tuesday night.

The Iraqi agency said President Saddam Hussein sent a special message to Iraqi naval forces Wednesday congratulating them for foiling an attempt by Iranian warships to attack Iraqi positions in the same area Monday.

At the United Nations, Iraq charged in a letter published on Wednesday that Iran employed mustard gas and phosgene against

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The captain of the USS Stark said Wednesday he did not know a missile was heading for his warship until a lookout spotted it only seconds before it rammed into the vessel, killing 37 seamen.

Commander Glenn Brindel said the ship lost its tracking ability for about 30 seconds after the impact of the missile from the aircraft, which would be one means of detecting hostile intent.

An engineer who survived the Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark said Wednesday he was woken up in his bunk by a large explosion, then his crew quarters were engulfed in flames.

The bodies of 35 sailors. Two other seamen are missing and presumed dead.

A senior Pentagon official, Rear Admiral Grant Sharp, was due in Bahrain Wednesday to head an investigation into the attack, which both Iraq and the United States have described as an unintentional error.

ter Mrs. Kiser sent to the Iraqi pilot who fired the missile containing a "message of peace" and she also sent a copy of the New Testament.

The pilot has not been publicly identified by Iraq. Mr. Zakheim said he would give the letter and book to the Iraqi ambassador in Bahrain.

The missile hit, then a second missile struck as the crew was trying to shift the defensive system from manual to automatic.

In his first public comment about the Iraqi attack Sunday, Cmdr. Brindel also said he was convinced the attack was a mistake.

He said his crew spotted the Iraqi warplane on radar, but not the missiles, at least one of which was a French-made Exocet.

"The aircraft launched the missiles, I believe, at a significantly closer range, where only a matter of seconds were able to be given about for defensive measures to be put into effect," he said. "And we did not detect the separation of the

"I heard the first explosion and I didn't know what caused it," said Petty Officer Michael O'Keefe, 27. "I thought we had lost the engine."

"Then when I smelled smoke I felt there was trouble," followed by a second explosion. He saw "fireballs," said the engineer.

He was brought to a news conference by Cmdr. Brindel who said Petty Officer O'Keefe had performed many "heroic acts to save some of his fellow crewmen and help contain the disaster."

The news conference was held about four hours after a military C-141 starliner left Bahrain on the way to the United States with

Cmdr. Brindel said one of the two missiles was definitely a French-made Exocet, but from the wreckage it was possible the second was a laser-guided missile.

Such missiles are much harder to detect because they do not send out radio beams.

Cmdr. Brindel said he wept at a brief airport ceremony on Wednesday morning to honour the dead crewmen but was consoled by the widow of one of them.

Barbara Kiser told him her husband was "with the Lord, not in the casket and the Lord had reasons for what happened."

U.S. Ambassador Sam Zakheim showed reporters a let-

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Tuesday that unless the United Nations Security Council pressures Iran to make peace with Iraq, the Gulf war "will bring more tragedies" like the Stark attack.

"We hope the Security Council will be encouraged to do something," he told a news conference in his Baghdad office.

He said he hoped "this unfortunate incident will serve to push circumstances toward an end to the war."

Mr. Aziz also said fighter pilot who attacked the Stark thought he was firing on an Iranian target.

Mr. Aziz said the Iraqi pilot

(Continued on page 3)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nicaraguan rebel leader Adolfo Calero testified Wednesday he met President Ronald Reagan three or four times during a two-year ban on U.S. military aid to his forces, but never mentioned secret U.S. at stake in the war against the Sandinistas, adding, "it is the United States that will win or lose."

Mr. Calero told one questioner that only a "minor, very minor" part of the Iran arms sale pro-

MANILA (Agencies) — Frustrated losers on the left and right joined sections of the military on Wednesday in battering President Corazon Aquino with accusations of cheating in the Philippine elections as members of her coalition

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efforts to aid the contras.

"No, sir, no," Mr. Calero replied at the Iran-contra hearings when asked if he and Mr. Reagan discussed either Oliver North's activities or the contras' efforts to raise funds from foreign sources as a replacement for U.S. aid cut off by Congress.

Testifying during a two-hour morning session, Mr. Calero also said he received no indication that Mr. Reagan knew of proceeds from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran being diverted to the rebels. Mr. Reagan has denied any knowledge of the diversion.

In an opening statement before he submitted to questions, Mr. Calero lectured the House of Representatives and Senate investigating committees about the importance of the contra cause.

He said American resolve was

ceeds were eventually received by the contras.

Retired air force Major General Richard Secord, who appeared before the committees two weeks ago, said he spent \$3.5 million in proceeds on the contras, although much of that presumably went to sustaining a secret arms-running operation.

Testifying under oath, Mr. Calero said he raised \$33.7 million for the contras during the two-year period, adding that he told Lieutenant-Colonel North "practically everything" about the weapons he bought with the funds.

"I had no reservation. I had full confidence and trust in him," Mr. Calero told the congressional Iran-contra hearing. He said the two men met about 50 times during the two years.

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# U.S. to guard Kuwaiti ships despite Stark attack

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has served notice that its warships will stay in the Gulf to protect Kuwaiti tankers despite a missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark in which 37 American sailors were killed.

President Reagan told the U.S. navy in the Gulf to shoot in self-defence as developments in the region set off questions in Congress about the American role there.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger named Rear Admiral Grant Sharp Tuesday to head a military inquiry into the attack on the Stark by at least one Iraqi jet which fired one or two Exocet missiles.

A State Department spokeswoman said plans were going ahead to put 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag to protect them in the Gulf, a battle-ground in the 6½-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

"Our interests in the region aren't changed," nor "is the threat to neutral commercial shipping and to the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz," spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said.

With the Stark out of action, the United States now has two guided missile frigates and three guided missile destroyers, as well as the command ship Lassale, in the Gulf.

The ships have no air cover but the aircraft carrier Constellation is on its way to the area through the Indian Ocean and its fighters could defend the warships by next week.

Officials did not say when the United States expected to take up

have to go in harm's way from time to time."

## Kuwait paper blames Reagan

Meanwhile, a Kuwait newspaper launched a fierce attack on President Reagan's policies Wednesday in the northern Gulf emirate to Sunday's air strike by Iraq on the Stark.

Kuwait has not commented officially on the attack, which killed 37 crewmen, but an editorial in Al Anba, a moderate daily usually friendly to the West, said: "We consider President Reagan responsible for what happened."

Addressing Mr. Reagan, it said: "You have contributed to this (Iran-Iraq) war directly and indirectly, in fomenting, escalating and continuing the conflict. You have supplied Iran with arms to escalate the war, to continue its attacks on Iraqi territory and reinforce Iran's arrogant refusal to respond to calls for peace."

Diplomats said Kuwait, which supports Iraq in the war, would regard the attack on the Stark as something with which it was not directly concerned.

Al Anba accused Mr. Reagan of closing his ears to Islamic and Arab calls for Washington to lend its weight to efforts to end the war, in which Iranian forces are entrenched in Iraq's Fao peninsula only a few miles from Kuwait.

Moscow treated its Arab friends as allies, it said, but Washington viewed them "sometimes... as enemies, giving priority to preferred friends Israel and others."

# Argentina to export nuclear technology to Iran

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentina will provide Iran with nuclear technology in a deal worth about \$5 million, a spokesman for the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) has said.

"A contract was signed earlier this month and the technology will be delivered in about a year and a half," Roberto Orstein, the CNEA's international affairs manager, told Reuters.

Mr. Orstein said Argentina would provide the technology, including a new core, for an experimental reactor at Tehran University.

It will allow the reactor to function on 20 per cent enriched uranium in keeping with current international safeguards, he said. The reactor has since 1967 been working on 90 per cent enriched uranium.

Talks between Argentina and Iran began about 18 months ago after the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency asked Argentina and other countries whether they could provide the technology to modify the reactor in Tehran, Mr. Orstein said.

He said there were good possibilities for further deals of the same nature with other countries. The local foreign trade weekly, Neustra, said Argentina was also holding talks with Albania, Indonesia and Morocco to export nuclear technology.

Argentina already has bilateral contracts with Peru and Algeria, Mr. Orstein said.

The Iranian reactor was built by United Nuclear Corp. of the United States but the U.S. government cut off supplies of highly enriched uranium after the Iranian revolution of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Argentina already is training engineers for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, so the contract is considered a chance for the Argentine government to gain political influence in the Middle East.

Mr. Estrada said negotiations for the contract took place over 18 months.

Argentina's nuclear industry is Latin America's most advanced. Argentina has two nuclear power reactors.

# Despite risk, ships queue to enter Gulf war zone

FUJAIRAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — Sixty-five tankers are now lying off Fujairah and nearby Khor Fakkan, many ready to sail at a moment's notice into the Gulf war zone despite the risk of missile attack by Iran or Iraq.

Tanker silhouettes dot the horizon and ship radios crackle as harbour master Roger Turnbull directs another vessel to anchor off the quiet port just outside the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

"We're out of the war zone, which is what makes it so attractive," said Capt. Turnbull.

More than 200 ships have been hit in the Gulf, with the loss of more than 100 seamen, since the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into international sealanes three years ago.

The highest casualty toll from a single attack was the 37 U.S. sailors killed in Sunday's Iraqi strike on the U.S. frigate Stark near Bahrain.

Fujairah, 140 kilometres from the mouth of the Gulf, is a safe haven outside the normal range of Iraqi and Iranian planes or

gunboats.

Tankers spend anything from six hours to two months at anchor undergoing repairs, replenishing fuel and provisions or waiting for orders to pick up a cargo of crude oil, refined products or gas.

"They wait for their owners to find them a charter. There is no use waiting off Norway or Greece if the market is here in the Middle East," Capt. Turnbull said.

"It's a good place to wait," said a Norwegian captain who for security reasons declined to give his name or that of his tanker.

"It's safe and it's easy to get supplies."

Almost one-fifth of the non-Communist World's crude oil is shipped from the Gulf and Fujairah-based shipping agents say more than 40 tankers a day pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

The chances of a given tanker being hit are less than one per cent, they say, and the chances of human casualties are even slimmer.

Even so, shipowners offer double and sometimes triple pay for the time seamen spend in the war

zone, generally defined as the northern Gulf.

The port of Fujairah, one of seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE), abolished its anchorage fee a year ago to attract more tankers and benefit from the economic spin-off.

Since January, around 40 tankers have been offshore at any given time, lighting up the horizon at night like a city at sea.

The anchorage is good, close to shipping lanes and exempt from war-risk insurance. Sometimes tankers stop on their way out of the Gulf to wait for higher spot oil prices, clean the hull or repair minor missile damage.

Shipping agencies and service companies have sprung up to give a small fillip to the economy of Fujairah, a mountainous and until recently isolated emirate which has yet to find oil.

"Sometimes they just turn off their engines and drift for a few hours. They may order 100 kilos of potatoes, 200 tonnes of fresh water and pick up their mail.

Once a captain asked for 20 colour TVs on board within three hours," said Capt. Turnbull.

Inbound, a tanker may halt near Fujairah until nightfall, to enter the Gulf under cover of darkness. Iranian helicopters and planes, which attack vessels in the southern Gulf, do not usually operate at night.

Iranian gunboats, which have been sighted in international waters off Khor Fakkan, exchange what shipping sources describe as firm but polite radio messages with the U.S. navy.

"If the Iranians feel the U.S. is getting too close to their waters they tell them to get away," said one Fujairah-based shipping agent.

The Americans reply by saying they are in international waters. The matter usually ends there.

Diplomats say the United States is less worried about the regular Iranian navy than small missile-bearing craft piloted by Revolutionary Guards, blamed for several attacks in the southern Gulf on ships trading with Kuwait.

# Kuwait plans to keep AIDS at bay

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has detected six cases of AIDS and is studying a programme of checks, education and penalties to keep the killer ailment at bay, Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al-Awadhi said in an interview published Wednesday.

Al Anba newspaper quoted him as saying the government was studying a bill to penalise anyone who had sex with their spouses while aware that they carried AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

It was also studying proposals to carry out checks on anyone travelling abroad more than 10 times a year, he said in Geneva where he attended a recent World Health Organisation meeting.

A survey of up to 15,000 people in Kuwait would also be carried out to monitor possible spread of the disease, he added.

The AIDS cases identified in Kuwait include two Americans, two African students, a "stateless" person who came from Saudi Arabia and an Arab child whose nationality he did not disclose.

# Pacific states dismiss concern over Libya

RABAU, Papua New Guinea (R) — Three South Pacific Island nations said Wednesday Libyan influence in the region had been blown out of proportion by Western countries.

Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, partners in the Melanesian spearhead group, also said they would preserve their culture and identity to avoid racial conflicts such as the ethnic violence in Fiji between ethnic Melanesians and Indians.

Prime Ministers Pias Winge of Papua New Guinea and Ezekiel Aileua of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Deputy Prime Minister Sethy Regenzanu met here in an attempt to forge a common policy in the South Pacific.

They stated their position one day after Australia ordered the closure of the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Canberra and expelled its diplomats.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke accused Libya of playing a destabilising role in the South Pacific. It also was involved in "divisive activities" in Australia, he said, without giving details.

Australian officials said Western concern stemmed from the establishment of diplomatic ties between Vanuatu and Libya last year. They said Libya might use Vanuatu to support dissident groups in the region.

Mr. Regenzanu told the conference Vanuatu would never allow any activity that could destabilise the region. All three ministers emphasised the need for Melanesian unity and consultation.

"Vanuatu, contrary to a lot of media discussion, will never allow itself to be used as a base for activities that are contrary to the interests and needs of the governments of the people of the region," Mr. Regenzanu said.

Mr. Aileua said the Libyan issue was of some concern to Solomon Islands but it had been exaggerated by Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

"We feel that the arch adversaries we must face together are the superpowers and their wanton interest in this region... We feel that they are paranoid about the whole issue (of Libya)," he said.

Referring to the ethnic disturbances in Fiji following last week's attempted coup, Mr. Aileua said: "It can be avoided if we can maintain our identity, if we can carry out our functions and govern our own nations with our own decisions."

"If we can keep away foreign alien influences from our shores, we sincerely believe that the problem in Fiji will not happen in our countries," he said.

Winge told the conference the French territory of New Caledonia, not Libya, was still the most serious long-term issue.

"We cannot, and must not, simply react to what outsiders say about us and want us to do," the Papua New Guinea leader said.

Meanwhile the Australian government was accused by the opposition Wednesday of ordering the closure of the Libyan People's Bureau to deflect attention from its handling of the crisis in Fiji.

The opposition said Mr. Hawke had displayed impotence in the face of last Thursday's military takeover, which it said was a direct result of the government's lack of interest in the area.

Shaban Gashut, secretary of the Bureau, said the decision to close Libya's sole diplomatic office in Australia was "immature political behaviour."

Mr. Hawke denied at a press conference Tuesday that the decision to close the bureau had been influenced by events in Fiji, but conceded the issues were inter-related.

# Kuwait pledges \$900,000 for Palestine refugees

VIENNA (Agencies) — Kuwait has pledged \$900,000 in response to Lebanon emergency appeal being made by UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli has asked for \$20.6 million to enable the agency to give urgently-needed help — food, shelter and medical care — to Palestine refugees suffering from the fighting in Lebanon.

Kuwait's pledge brings to nearly \$11 million the amount promised or paid in cash to the appeal. Another \$2.4 million has been pledged or given in kind — mainly food, blankets and medical supplies.

Other governments which have made pledges or contributions are: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The European Community, a number of non-

governmental and other organisations and individuals have also made contributions or pledges. UNRWA provides education, health and relief services to some 2.1 million registered Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About 13 per cent of the total refugees live in Lebanon, with over half of them living in 12 camps. Some 48,000 of the Palestine refugees have been displaced by the strife in Lebanon in the past nine months.

Argentina already has bilateral contracts with Peru and Algeria, Mr. Orstein said.

The Iranian reactor was built by United Nuclear Corp. of the United States but the U.S. government cut off supplies of highly enriched uranium after the Iranian revolution of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

## TV & RADIO

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 77311-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**

14:00 ..... Koran  
14:10 ..... Program Review  
14:20 ..... Children's program  
14:35 ..... Ramadan competition  
14:40 ..... Local puzzle  
15:10 ..... Cooking program  
15:25 ..... Arabic play  
16:50 ..... Religious Series (Ibn Khaldun)  
17:30 ..... Religious program  
17:40 ..... Arabic comedy  
18:40 ..... Local competition  
19:00 ..... Religious program  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Tomorrow's program  
22:20 ..... News in Arabic  
23:10 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:50 ..... Arabic play

**PROGRAMME TWO**

18:00 ..... Ombré et Lumière: Memoirs d'un  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Le Monde Selon Gorge  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Variety  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Mc and My Girl  
21:10 ..... The Challenge  
22:30 ..... News in English  
22:50 ..... Feature film: The Gray Fox  
Jakie Burroughs, Wayne Rulson

**RADIO JORDAN**  
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM  
S&S partly on 950 KHz. SW  
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 ..... Light Music  
07:30 ..... News  
08:00 ..... Morning Show  
09:00 ..... News Summary  
10:00 ..... Morning Show Cont.  
10:05 ..... Country Music  
11:30 ..... News in Arabic  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:30 ..... Pop Show  
14:00 ..... News Bulletin  
14:10 ..... Instrumental  
14:30 ..... 30-minute Theatre  
15:00 ..... Concert Hour  
16:00 ..... News Summary  
16:30 ..... Instrumental  
16:50 ..... Old Favorites  
17:00 ..... Discovering Music  
17:30 ..... Pop Seven  
18:00 ..... News Summary

**VOICE OF AMERICA**  
MW 1240 & SW 720, 950, 1174, 11925 and 1520 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VO  
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline  
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News & Features 12:00 News 12:10  
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News & Editorial 12:50 Music USA  
13:00 News 13:10 World Report

**FOR FRIDAY**

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

**TODAY'S EVENTS**

**FEATURE FILM**

"The Chaplin Review" at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

**VIDEO**

"Boys" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

**CULTURAL CENTRES**

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026  
American Centre .. Tel. 64431  
American Centre Library .. 64150  
British Council .. 636147  
French Cultural Centre .. 63709  
Goethe Institute .. 64193  
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64233  
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 62406  
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 67977  
Haya Arts Centre .. 66181  
Husseini Youth City .. 66181  
Y.W.C.A. .. 64173  
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 64173  
Amman Municipal Library .. 63611  
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 84325

**MUSEUMS**

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" .. Film and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. p.m. Closed on Friday.

**CHURCHES**

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) .. Tel. 62490  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) .. Tel. 62490  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) .. Tel. 61757  
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic) .. Tel. 61757  
Jabal Lubdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 62346  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) .. Tel. 62341  
Anglican Church (Church of the Resurrection) .. Tel. 62346  
Armenian Catholic Church .. Tel. 71131  
Armenian Orthodox Church .. Tel. 71131  
St. Barbara Church (Syrian Orthodox) .. Tel. 71175  
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) .. Tel. 67534  
Evangelical Lutheran Church .. Tel. 81295

**SERVICE CLUBS**

Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

London Philatelic Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 53200-3, where I should always be verified.

Philatelic Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 81653-81754.

**ARRIVALS**

**ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS** (Terminal 1)

10:00 ..... Agaba (R)  
10:20 ..... Cairo (R)  
10:40 ..... Jeddah (R)  
11:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:20 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:30 ..... New York, Vienna (R)  
11:35 ..... London (R)  
11:40 ..... Bucharest, Larnaca (R)  
11:45 ..... Athens (R)  
11:50 ..... Rome (R)  
12:00 ..... Baghdad (R)

**OTHER FLIGHTS** (Terminal 2)

13:40 ..... Cairo (M)  
14:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:20 ..... Jeddah (R)  
14:40 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:50 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
15:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
15:10 ..... Frankfurt (L)  
15:20 ..... Amsterdam, Istanbul (L)  
15:30 ..... Zurich, Larnaca (S)

**DEPARTURES**

**ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS** (Terminal 1)

07:45 ..... Agaba (R)  
11:30 ..... Bucharest (R)  
11:45 ..... Rome (R)  
12:00 ..... Cairo (R)  
13:00 ..... Frankfurt, London (R)  
13:15 ..... Brussels, Paris (R)  
13:40 ..... Larnaca, Athens (R)  
14:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:20 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:30 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:40 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:50 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
15:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
15:10 ..... Frankfurt (L)  
15:20 ..... Amsterdam, Istanbul (L)  
15:30 ..... Zurich, Larnaca (S)

**OTHER FLIGHTS** (Terminal 2)

06:20 ..... Frankfurt (L)  
06:30 ..... Cairo, London (B)

**ARRIVALS**

**ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS** (Terminal 1)

10:00 ..... Agaba (R)  
10:20 ..... Cairo (R)  
10:40 ..... Jeddah (R)  
11:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:05 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:20 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
11:30 ..... New York, Vienna (R)  
11:35 ..... London (R)  
11:40 ..... Bucharest, Larnaca (R)  
11:45 ..... Athens (R)  
11:50 ..... Rome (R)  
12:00 ..... Baghdad (R)

**OTHER FLIGHTS** (Terminal 2)

13:40 ..... Cairo (M)  
14:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:20 ..... Jeddah (R)  
14:40 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
14:50 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
15:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (R)  
15:10 ..... Frankfurt (L)  
15:20 ..... Amsterdam, Istanbul (L)  
15:30 ..... Zurich, Larnaca (S)

**DEPARTURES**

**ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS** (Terminal 1)

07:45 ..... Agaba (R)  
11:30 ..... Bucharest (R)  
11:45 ..... Rome (R)  
12:00 ..... Cairo (R)<



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Rifai chairs royal committee meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday presided over a meeting of the Royal Committee for Administrative Development, which discussed issues relating to the new civil service system and salary scale of the higher category staff, including under-secretaries, director generals of departments and public institutions. It was decided at the meeting that a special sub-committee, headed by the finance minister, will be set up to put forward proposals on these issues, in preparation for the next meeting of the royal committee.

## Cabinet increases capital for spa complex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to increase the capital of the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex to JD 5 million. The Cabinet also took another decision approving the appointment of the Zakat (alms) Fund's board of directors. The board includes Mr. Deifallah Al Hmoud, Mohammad Ali Budeir, Abdul Muhdi Ma'yah, Hamdi Tabba'a and Kamal Asfour.

## 3 killed in week's accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Three citizens were killed and 106 were injured in 366 road accidents which took place throughout Jordan last week. Last week accidents increased by 11.3 per cent over the week before, Public Security Department sources said on Monday. Although the number of accidents increased, the death toll remained the same during the past two weeks, while the number of injured decreased by 6 per cent, the source said. Most of the accidents took place in Amman Governorate which registered 146 accidents against 41 in Irbid, 30 in Zarqa, 17 in Balqa, 9 in the Badia, 6 in Karak, 5 in Ma'an, 5 in Aqaba and 3 in each of Mafraq and Tafleh governorates.

## Military governor endorses sentence

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Usama Ali Jamil Ibrahim to three months in prison after convicting him of embezzlement of public funds.

## Police holding unclaimed jewelry

AMMAN (Petra) — Criminal police have arrested a thief while he was trying to sell some gold jewelry to one of the jewellers. Since the criminal police department has not received any complaints and has not been informed about any thefts, it is therefore calling on anyone who has lost jewelry to call at the department to claim the seized items.

## IPA endorses public sector training plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) has endorsed an integrated plan for training employees in the public sector, to be put into force in July, according to IPA Director General Abdullah Ulayyan. He said that the plan entails holding 25 training courses for employees of different categories, dealing with skills in management and public administration. The plan, he said, entails two long term programmes for promoting employees in government departments.

## Road contract awarded to local firm

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh said that his ministry has recently awarded a tender to a consortium of local engineering offices to conduct evaluation and design studies for the 240 kilometre road stretching from Azraq to the Iraqi border. This road, the minister added, was subject to travel by vehicles with excessive axial loads during the past years which damaged large parts of it and warranted a technical study according to which the road will be reconstructed and strengthened. Work on the JD 47,000 study is expected to be finished this year while the construction tender will be floated next year.

## Preparations under way for CAEU meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab finance and economy ministers are scheduled to hold their 47th session meetings here on June 12th to discuss among other issues means of strengthening joint Arab economic action.

Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Mahdi Al Obeidi said that, during their two-day meetings, Arab ministers will also discuss reports on problems facing Arab economies, the economic situation in the occupied Arab territories, as well as proposals for dealing with negative effects from the international economic situation.

Mr. Obeidi added that there will also be working papers on the role of pan-Arab institutions in the Arab economies.



KING RECEIVES SUDANESE CLERIC: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received at the Royal Court Sudanese religious leader Ahmad Al Mahdi on the occasion of the end of the cleric's

visit to Jordan. Mr. Mahdi thanked the King for the hospitality he received during the visit (Petra photo)

## Australian, Jordanian firms sign contract for Zarqa project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint venture of Australia's Sagric International Co. and the Jouzi and Partners has signed a JD 2.8 million (\$8.4 million) contract for consultancy and extension services for part of the JD 32.2 million (\$96.3 million) Zarqa river basin project, according to the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED).

The scheme will introduce a radical approach to problems of soil erosion and land degradation in the 82,550-hectare lower Zarqa catchment area. The project has three components. The first, on which Sagric-Jouzi will work, deals with privately owned land — excluding private forests. It will cost an estimated JD 21.2 million (\$63.5 million).

The second, JD 4.6 million (\$13.8 million), sub-project will be for development of forests and other areas on government and private land. Consultancy work will probably be done by specialists from the Agriculture Ministry's forestry department and West Germany's technical aid agency, GIZ. The third, sub-project, to be limited to Arab consultants in joint venture with foreign firms, are to be issued in four months. This JD 2.1 million (\$6.3 million) section will deal with protection of hanks along the Zarqa river. The establishment of a central project administration will cost an additional JD 4.1 million (\$12.3 million).

## Lecture on plant diseases to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — A scientific lecture on the interaction of herbicides and plant diseases will be presented on May 23 at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan. The lecture, to be held at 10:00 a.m., will be presented by Dr. Jack Altman, a professor of plant pathology at Colorado State University, in cooperation with Dr. Alexander von Humboldt, a professor at Hanover University.

## Late British artist Fielding touched basic human level

By Margaret Hall  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Last month, Britain lost one of its renowned artists, Brian Fielding. He died of cancer at the age of fifty-four in his hometown, Sheffield.

At the time, his recent still-life paintings were being shown in exhibitions at the Mappon Art Gallery in Sheffield and the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. The exhibit traced the developments in Fielding's work from the 1960's to the present day.

The investigation of abstract forms and the obsessive use of recurring themes were central of Fielding's work. These themes were the subject of practical workshops for students during the exhibition.

Some of his earlier paintings.



Brian Fielding's "Vestonice Offer" painted shortly before the artist's death

## SSC opens new branches to handle larger coverage

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who is also chairman of the board of directors of the Social Security Corporation (SSC), said on Wednesday that the SSC is preparing to implement the extension of coverage to all institutions, companies or firms employing five or more people, in addition to all Jordanians working for international and regional organisations, and diplomatic corps as of June 1.

The new stage will be applied optionally to institutions employing less than five persons.

The decision to expand the coverage of the SSC was made by the Cabinet on April 25th. The expansion is expected to cover an additional 50,000 people.

Opening a new branch for the

SSC in Zarqa, Mr. Haj Hassan said the corporation applies decentralisation in discharging its functions and activities to provide facilities to workers, employers and institutions. He said that the corporation has already opened offices in Irbid, Aqaba and Karak, and is planning to open new offices in Salt, Mafraq and Tafleh.

Mr. Haj Hassan also said that the inauguration of the SSC office in Zarqa is designed to provide the necessary facilities for employers and workers and to provide protection and cater for the 411,000 workers and employees who are covered by the SSC law.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Mahdi Farhan, director general of the SSC, and Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh.

## U.S. to provide financing for Jordanian importers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has established a Commodity Import Programme (CIP) to assist Jordan's public and private sectors. Under a new financing arrangement, manufactured goods and raw materials beneficial to Jordan's economic development can be imported under favourable terms by local companies.

Since the CIP was established in 1985, USAID has contributed \$105.5 million to create this financing facility. Over \$48 million in letters of credit have already been issued to more than 35 Jordanian firms by local banks for imports of U.S. goods.

"We have been encouraged by the success of the private-sector programme, particularly the assistance which it has given to Jordanian entrepreneurs and their contributions to the industrial development of Jordan's economy," said Francis A. Donovan, director of USAID's Commodity Management Office in Amman. "The programme welcomes more applicants from the private sector to make use of this unique facility," he added.

Under the private sector portion of this programme, USAID pays U.S. exporters in dollars for goods approved for CIP financing. The Jordanian importer then pays the equivalent amount in dinars into a special account at the Central Bank of Jordan, ordinarily over a period of three to five years at interest rates which average 7 per cent. Funds in this special account are then used by the public sector for development projects agreed upon by Jordan and USAID.

Products eligible for financing under this programme include machinery and equipment, intermediate goods, raw materials, and spare parts. The programme does not finance consumer goods, luxury items, or products intended for re-export in essentially the same condition.

Major U.S. imports to Jordan under this programme have included draglines and other mining equipment, agricultural equipment, corn, tractors, telephone equipment, pumps, pharmaceuticals, computers, drilling equipment, tyres, and spare parts for trucks, tractors and aircraft.

Jordanian importers and entrepreneurs interested in the CIP programme should contact their local bank or USAID at 604171, extension 441.

## Committee prepares for 3rd expatriate conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee in charge of preparing for the 3rd conference of Jordanian expatriates has embarked on a number of measures designed to make the conference a success, a report in the Arabic daily Al Rai said on Wednesday.

The conference which will be held in Amman on July 13, will concentrate on issues pertaining

to relations between expatriates and their home country. Taking part in the four-day conference will be some 650 Jordanians working abroad, in addition to a number of participants who work in Jordan.

The preparatory committee is currently preparing working papers on Jordan's latest achievements.

## Captain of frigate had only seconds of warning

(Continued from page 1)

had not received any signals from the frigate Sunday night before he fired his missiles.

"I checked with the commander of the air force myself and he assures me the pilot did not receive any warning. Pilots usually attack from a long distance and cannot identify the ships," said Mr. Aziz.

U.S. officials had said the frigate had attempted to contact the fighter before the attack.

Mr. Aziz said the pilot believed "he was aiming at an Iranian target. That's what he went for."

"Our pilots fly in this war zone on a daily basis. They're trying to find Iranian vessels and vessels dealing or trading with Iran. Our pilots have been attacking them

for a long time. The Iranians deny us our right to navigate in the Gulf and we have to retaliate," he said.

He said that Iraq has asked the United States to provide a full report on the attack. "We are still waiting for the American version of the whole story. It seems it is not prepared yet."

Mr. Aziz said that when the U.S. report is available "we can see whether the pilot has to be blamed or not."

"If he is to be blamed, his commander is going to take the necessary measures," he said, without elaborating.

In a related development, U.S. administration officials disclosed Tuesday night that U.S. intelligence agencies had intercepted some radio communications between

the Iraqi warplane and its home base.

One source, quoted by AP, described the radio transmissions as "not much help" in unravelling the circumstances surrounding the attack.

"The pilot said something to the effect that he had a big target or a big ship," added the source.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan said Tuesday there must never be a repeat of the Stark attack and declared the order of battle for U.S. warships now was "defend yourselves."

In remarks to high school students in Tennessee, Mr. Reagan said U.S. ships were in the Gulf to protect U.S. interests, and maintain navigational freedom and access to oil supplies.

## Charity bazaar one of many night attractions for Ramadan

By Sanaz Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As Eid Al Fitr approaches and the days become warmer, Ammanites stroll down the streets for some fresh night air and digest the food they had for iftar to work up a new appetite for suhur before the cannon goes off to start a new day of the holy month of Ramadan.

During this month of Ramadan, one can drive in the downtown streets and feel a sense of pleasure to find that the roads have been cleaned. It is even more pleasurable to find that there has been a successful effort to provide the public with parks.

The Hashemi Street was not a place to go unless one had to. Now, however, especially during Ramadan, one can see the lovely Roman amphitheatre that had previously been blocked to the street by the old Philadelphia hotel.

And, because the roads have been widened, and a new public park sits besides the old Roman ruins, people sit, walk, laugh and talk until 2 or 3 in the morning.

Jabal Hussein is another lively area for a Ramadan night. The streets brim with life as Jordanians window shop, take late night walks, sit around and tell jokes, and munch on roasted nuts.

Bazaars, both open-air and sheltered, have been opened for



A view of the newly-built Hashemite Park in downtown Amman and the Roman amphitheatre on the right.

the public during this holy month. One open-air bazaar is in Jabal Hussein in front of the Ministry of Health.

## Charity piastre bazaar

As one approaches the charity piastre bazaar, men on loudspeakers are heard trying to sell dresses for JD 1 each and music—Arabic and disco—blares out in the neon-lit darkness. Outside the entrance, a fire engine is parked in case of an emergency. And inside, a new police van with several policemen inside sit and enjoy their soft drinks awaiting to settle any form of trouble.

Inside the bazaar, there are many men, women, and children walking around the market, till 2



People of all ages are sitting through books at a bookshop stand at Jabal Al Hussein's open-air bazaar (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

io the morning. As the young ones play on the slides, see-saws, and swings in the middle of the bazaar, adults look for new clothes to wear for Eid Al Fitr, or buy household items, or look for a missing child.

There are 120 booths that sell shoes, clothing, accessories, toys, books, stationery, soft-drinks, soaps and detergents. One man on a loud speaker is saying: "Everything in this boutique for only JD 2," while another man right next to him shouts in his loud speaker: "Dresses for only JD 1!" There is a booth for video games, and a company has even displayed a solar energy collector.

In a large section of the bazaar, there are tables and chairs for people to sit, drink Arabic coffee, and smoke their argeelas (water pipes).

Although, according to some of the merchants selling their products at the bazaar, most people are not buying much, there are still happy faces seen enjoying the night air. The children are especially grateful to be out of their houses and having fun at the mini-playground.

A bookseller says that although he is renting three booths for his books, he is not making much of a profit: "I sell from JD 20 to JD 50 a night, which is nothing. But I think it's important to display a large number and variety of books in such a market because it



Jabal Al Hussein's bazaar bustles with life after iftar during Ramadan days (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

introduces people to books and encourages them to read," said the bookseller.

A man selling slippers of JD 1 each said that he sells usually 25 slippers a night. The Pepsi seller, whose soft drinks are chilled in a large barrel of water and ice, said that he sells JD 50 worth of drinks a night.

Mr. Abdullah Jaber, director of the Charity Piastre Project, sits in his own administration booth at the entrance, feels guilty for not having rented it out to a merchant.

Mr. Jaber said that the Ramadan market is filled with people and children until 2 a.m. The project, which collects money for scholarships to 200 needy stu-

dents at the University of Jordan, set up the booths in this empty piece of land which was donated for use by the landowner for one month. Mr. Jaber said that two years after the students graduate, they begin to repay the Charity Piastre Project in order to keep the system going.

According to Mr. Jaber, it took JD 10,000 to establish the bazaar. Each booth costs the merchant JD 150, plus an electricity bill and insurance payment. Asked whether it would be possible to carry on the activity throughout the summer, he replied: "It is a good idea and the people love to go outdoors at night. But it is up to the merchants if they want to continue through the summer."



Items priced at JD 1 each selling at the bazaar (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)



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## Misplaced hopes

IT IS indeed ironic to note that the Israeli Labour Party which is allegedly seeking peace with the Arabs through an international peace conference and is currently running a domestic and international campaign on a peace ticket could also be caught engaged in a relentless effort to outbid the Likud bloc as a more hardline party on the conditions of peace. This is happening against the backdrop of the political feud which is brewing between the two principal ruling parties in Israel over the issue of whether to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. Only two days ago, spokesmen for the so-called peace party have been caught red-handed accusing the Likud bloc in the Knesset as having been too soft on the peace objective with the Arabs and as having sold the interests of the country too cheaply when it, as the ruling party under Menachem Begin, negotiated and concluded the Camp David accords with Egypt and precipitated evacuation from Egyptian territory. Thus, the lot of peace efforts in Israel is too confusing to comprehend: on one hand we have the Likud on record as opposed to the format of an international peace conference because it fears international pressure which could succeed in inducing Israel to withdraw completely from Arab territories; and on the other hand we have Labour on record as being in favour of the conference idea but professes to be more of hardliner on the conditions of peace than the Likud.

Let anyone forget it was under Labour rule that Israel waged its major wars against the Arab countries and set the process of colonisation of the occupied Arab territories. When the Likud assumed power, it too did not hesitate to wage war against the Arabs, and its infamous invasion of Lebanon which brought unprecedented death and destruction to that country has yet to be completely chronicled by military historians. Against this background we hear U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz saying in the wake of his recent talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in New York and Washington that neither the president nor himself are committed to an international conference and that neither of them is asking others to commit themselves now to the conference idea. Are we not right therefore in concluding that, given the environment of the projected peace conference our pinning too much hope on the conference is misplaced to say the least.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Threat from the Gulf

DESPITE the huge losses which the Gulf war has been causing over the past seven years and despite the danger it posed to world peace and security, the superpowers and the Western nations have so far been overlooking its existence. Above all, this war has been a rich ground for war mongers who exploited it for their own selfish interest and directly or indirectly helped to prolong the conflict as much as possible. But the attacks on the supersonic vessels in the troubled waters of the Gulf region have now opened the eyes of the international community to the grave danger this conflict is posing to the world, and underlined the need for speedy action for stopping all hostilities. The attacks on the foreign ships in the Gulf represent a reminder to the world that the Gulf conflict was continuing, and that certain evil forces have been active in fuelling it while others looked on without doing anything to end the tragedy. The attacks clearly manifest the fact that the world has not yet taken serious steps towards bringing this conflict to an end, and that the longer the war lasts, the more danger will be posed to world peace and security. It is true that the U.S. arms deal with Iran caused a scandal in the United States and brought about condemnation from world nations, but the loss of American life on board the Stark frigate would no doubt bring the tragedy to every doorstep in the United States which ought to shoulder its responsibility as a superpower to help re-establish justice and peace worldwide.

#### Al Dustour: Peres' misleading talk

UPON returning to Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claimed that in his visit to the United States he was encouraged by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to pursue efforts for convening an international conference on the Middle East. But we have all heard Shultz's remarks in Washington and in the presence of Peres that Washington would not make any moves towards such conference unless this subject won the blessings of the Israeli coalition government. Everyone including Shultz realises that the present Israeli government led by Yitzhak Shamir adamantly refuses the idea of an international conference, and therefore any talk about the conference is a waste of time. In fact such talk, coming from any member of the Israeli government, is designed as misleading to world public opinion. The world has watched Peres being defeated by Shamir, his partner in the present government, and heard Washington announcing support for the Israeli government's position with regard to the international conference. There can be nothing in all that Israel and the United States think or do which might be helpful towards a lasting settlement. Unless and until the Arabs take the initiative and bring about a real change in the balance of power in the area, there can be no chance for such conference or for real peace.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Stepping into boiling waters

THE Americans who have been fuelling the Gulf war by supplying Iran with arms are now suffering from the fire they caused and the conflagration they helped to bring about. The attack on the American frigate in the Gulf region underlines the fact that the United States is clearly making wrong calculations with regard to the Gulf region and taking wrong steps in their approach to deal with the situation there. Even Washington's offer to provide protection to Arab states in the Gulf is looked on as insidious, because it could give cause to the emergence of further hostile feelings towards the United States, something which could escalate tension. The attack on the frigate brings to mind the tragedy of the spy ship Liberty which was hit by the Israelis during the 1967 war when the U.S. was trying to deal with the Middle East situation with ill-planning. Such miscalculations also brought further tragedy when the U.S. sent its troops to Lebanon, another troubled area of the Middle East, only to lose 200 men in a tragedy which they had helped to cause. The waters of the Gulf are very hot and boiling and only through careful and concerted efforts and goodwill can they be cooled and hostilities brought to an end.

# U.S. wants Gulf war ended as quickly as possible

From USA

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee — The United States wants the "long, costly, destabilising and tragic" Gulf war ended as quickly as possible, President Reagan says. In responses to written questions submitted by the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas on May 12 — before the Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark — Reagan said Washington is committed to ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz, and to the collective self-defence of U.S. friends in the Gulf area. The text of the interview was released by the White House in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the president was addressing high school graduates from the Hamilton County area. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said U.S. policy in the Gulf remains constant, despite the attack on the Stark. The president said Washington is "strongly interested" in seeing the Iran-Iraq war "brought to a speedy conclusion through negotiations which will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity" of both belligerents. Following is the text of the interview.

Question: Mr. President, you are determined to protect the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Yet, some say your administration is not doing anything about bringing to an end the major cause of the threat, namely the Gulf war. There is a conviction in the area that your administration is taking advantage of that war in order to secure military facilities. Do you think that this reflects the reality of the American attitude? The President: For more than six years, the war between Iran and Iraq has gone on, resulting in tremendous suffering and cost to Iran and Iraq, as well as bringing instability to the Gulf region. As I have said many times, the United States is deeply concerned over the war's continuation. We are strongly interested in seeing it brought to a speedy conclusion through negotiations which will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq. Through our campaign to slow down and shut off the military supply pipelines to Iran, through our support of mediation efforts by the appropriate international organisations, we are working with many other governments in seeking to create a situation where the parties will sit down and negotiate.

At the same time, we also have a well-known policy regarding the Gulf. We are firmly committed to assisting our friends there with their collective and individual self-defence efforts. We are also strongly committed to ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz and hold as a very important tenet the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters.

In brief, we want to see this long, costly, destabilising, and tragic war brought to a negotiated end in the quickest time possible. Q: You acknowledge a "joint mistake in the secret dealings with Iran, and you said that the Arab countries understand the implications behind this: the consequences of the deal are still reverberating within your administration and on the battlefield of this war. Therefore, may we frankly know from your exact policy towards both Iran and Iraq?

A: The United States is neutral in the Iran-Iraq war. We do not now ship weapons to Iran or Iraq, nor do we intend to do so. This policy is firm.

Through Operation Staunch we try to persuade third countries not to supply Iran with arms, munitions, and dual-use items it needs to continue fighting. Operation Staunch is not directed

towards Iraq — that country, for some time, has agreed to negotiate a settlement to the war. Iran remains the intransigent party and is occupying Iraqi territory and trying to take more.

The United States has taken an active role in searching for a peaceful solution to this tragic war. We want neither victor nor vanquish, and we continue to work for a settlement that will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq.

I have urged the international community, in the appropriate fora and through the appropriate mechanisms, to work for an immediate cease-fire, negotiations, and withdrawal to the borders. In line with this general policy, we have been actively consulting with other interested governments regarding efforts to bring the war to a negotiated end. I have asked Assistant Secretary Murphy to visit the Gulf to consult on this and other important issues of mutual interest.

We believe the U.N. Security Council has an important role to play in the effort to end the Gulf war and would strongly support effective action by the United Nations to end this conflict. We have been consulting closely with the Arab League in efforts to gain support from other members of the Security Council. We welcome the effort by the Arab League in this regard.

Q: A lot of talk is being heard about adopting the idea of holding an international conference attended by all of the parties concerned to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Nevertheless, the American attitude is not clear. Would the United States agree to participate in such a conference if it is going to lead to the formation of two independent states, Israel and Palestine, and what would Arafat's role be?

A: We remain committed to a negotiated peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbours. To this end, we have stated our willingness to explore all possibilities, including an international conference that might lead to direct negotiations and a peaceful settlement. Such a conference must lead promptly to direct negotiations and must not interfere with those negotiations.

In recent weeks, this process of exploration has produced what we believe to be significant progress toward negotiations which would offer serious prospects of reaching agreements between the parties on peace. Much remains to be done before one can safely

express optimism on further developments, but we are encouraged and will continue our efforts.

As I stated in my September 1, 1982 peace proposal, we firmly believe that self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan offers the best chance for a durable, just and lasting peace.

We have always recognised that Palestinians should participate at every stage of the peace process. The form that Palestinian representation takes is a question that must be resolved by the parties in the conflict.

The actions of the recent Palestine National Congress in Algiers indicate a negative, unrealistic attitude toward the peace process.

Q: The USSR gave Egypt the means for settling her debts and granted her easy loans, although the relations between the two countries are relatively poor. But even though you consider Egypt as a friendly state, you refuse to reschedule her military debts and you impose stringent conditions on financial aid. Is this, in your opinion, "friendship" or are you aiming at some other objectives with this ambivalent attitude?

A: There is nothing ambivalent about our friendship with Egypt or our commitment to help meet Egypt's security requirements and development needs. We have a record unmatched by any other country. Since 1974, the United States has provided Egypt over \$22,000 million in economic and military assistance. Despite sharp reductions in our global foreign assistance budget, we have maintained funding for our Egypt programme at \$2,300 million this year.

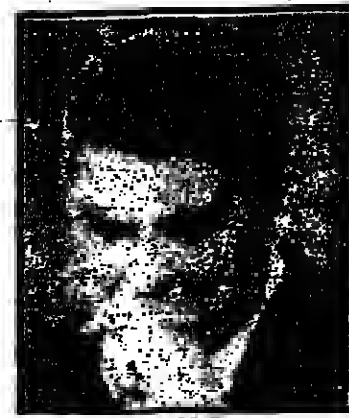
We work closely with the Egyptian government to ensure that our economic aid contributes effectively to Egypt's development goals. Our assistance has brought improvements to health, education, housing, and other basic needs, while also providing crucial balance of payments support to counter the effects of declining oil revenues and other external events.

I have been concerned about the burden placed on key friends, like Egypt, by military loans extended in past years with interest rates higher than current levels. We have taken a number of important steps during my administration to provide relief:

— Since 1985, Egypt has been one of only two countries to receive large amounts of U.S. military assistance on all-grant terms.

— In December 1986, I authorised a restructuring of our military loan programme, which would offer Egypt immediate relief on its military debt by allowing deferral of a substantial part of interest payments falling due in coming years. The terms of this restructuring are limited by legislation and guidelines which apply to all foreign military loans and all other borrowings from the Federal Financing Bank.

— We have expressed our intention to support a generous multilateral rescheduling of Egypt's military and other official



President Ronald Reagan

debt in the context of the programme. The Egyptian government is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund.

Our assistance to Egypt is just one aspect of the special relationship that exists between our two countries. I am committed to working with President Mubarak to see our relationship expand and flourish.

Q: Your bitter experience in Lebanon pushed America to refrain from interfering in Lebanese affairs; have you now entered into a new deal, a part of which contains a solution to the Lebanese problem or will you leave local parties to solve it and what could such a proposal be after 13 years of civil war?

A: U.S. policy in Lebanon has for many years been based on support for Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The United States continues to support an end to fighting in Lebanon, the restoration of a political dialogue that could lead to national reconciliation and political reform, the strengthening of Lebanon's legally constituted central government, dissolution of illegal militias and the extension of its effective authority throughout the country.

The lessons of Lebanon's 11 years of strife are clear, however. No outside power, however well-intentioned, can be a substitute for efforts by the Lebanese themselves, nor can Lebanon's political problems be solved by force. We, and others, are ready to help, but without initiative and effort by the Lebanese themselves, the assistance of foreign powers will be fruitless.

Q: Every people in the world has its own state — the British have Britain, and Americans have America. Where is the state of the Palestinian people?

A: We believe that any negotiations designed to lead to a Middle East peace must address the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, together with the security of all states in the region. We have always recognised that Palestinians should participate at every stage of the peace process. Any agreement on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza should receive the prior consent of the inhabitants of those territories.

We will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, nor will we support annexation or permanent control by Israel. As I stated in my September 1, 1982, peace

proposal, it is the firm view of the United States that self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan offer the best chance for a durable, just and lasting peace.

Q: Gorbachev rejected your invitation to visit Washington, D.C., on the ground that he does not want to waste his time. Does your administration feel that, as a result of the Iran-contra affair, it has lost the international stature it needs to carry on strategic debates with Moscow?

A: The U.S.-Soviet relationship is fundamentally competitive and will likely remain that way. At the same time, the United States seeks to ensure that this competition remains peaceful and as stable and predictable as possible.

We have established a framework, based on realism and political and military strength, that provides the basis for a productive U.S.-Soviet dialogue in all areas of concern to us: Arms control, bilateral exchanges, human rights and regional issues.

Through this dialogue, including two meetings between myself and General Secretary Gorbachev, the United States has made progress in a number of areas, including arms control, bilateral exchanges, human rights and regional issues. But in other areas, such as regional conflicts, we remain very far apart. My invitation to General Secretary Gorbachev remain open. We're ready for hard and fruitful work ahead. I hope the Soviets are as well.

Q: The state of Kuwait is a firm believer in neutrality and maintains a policy of balance between East and West in her international relations. Her position on the battlefield between Iran and Iraq has exposed her to further difficulties and dangers. What is your evaluation of Kuwait's role in that conflict within the overall relationship between our two countries?

A: We have had long and harmonious relations with Kuwait and all the Gulf states. With Kuwait our relationship goes back to the early days of its independence some 26 years ago.

We admire Kuwait's many achievements. Because of our strong ties with Kuwait and the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the common interests we share in stability in the region, we have been in close discussions for some time with all the GCC states on the war and the danger it poses. I have made it clear on numerous occasions that the United States would regard an expansion of the war as a major threat to its interests as well as to that of its friends in the region. We understand the difficult situation in which Kuwait has been placed by the pressures stemming from the Iran-Iraq conflict. We admire the courage and diplomatic skill with which Kuwait has met these pressures.

Q: Capitalism and free enterprise are well-established principles in the West. You are an advocate of non-intervention by states in the functions of the private sector. Aren't Western governments denying these principles in their efforts to keep the price of oil low?

A: The United States and other Western governments represented in the International Energy Agency continue to emphasise the importance of market forces and sound energy policy in achieving supply/demand balance. We do not work toward maintaining oil prices at any level, whether high or low. We have no preconceived notion of where world or individual countries production or pricing levels should be. We continue to believe these should be determined by the free market, operating without government interference or any other form of market manipulation.

Q: Recent events have proven that foreign investments in the United States are not immune from political considerations, although the free market economy of the United States is supposed to be free of state intervention. Investments by Iran, Argentina and Libya are examples. Do we, as Arabs with some of our surplus invested in the United States, have to think twice about whether our investments are safe and not subject to being frozen?

A: The United States remains the most open and flexible capital market in the world, and the U.S. government remains committed to the preservation of this openness. Responsible foreign governments and investors from their countries need not fear that their assets will be affected by U.S. political goals. Statistics clearly show that we continue to hold the confidence of foreign investors. Total foreign investment in the United States — including direct investment, portfolio investment, and foreign government holdings — more than doubled from just over \$500,000 million in 1980 to \$1.3 billion million by the end of 1986.

With respect to the three countries you mention, let me clarify a few points: — The United States did not freeze Argentine assets. We merely suspended programmes of the Export-Import Bank with regard to that country for a limited period. — The Iranian case was extraordinary in that it involved a government which had committed flagrant violations of well-established principles of international law. Iran was holding U.S. diplomats hostage. — Libya directly supports international criminals who perpetrate senseless acts of terror not only against Western and African countries but also against countries in the Gulf and other Muslim states. As a direct response to Libyan terrorist attacks against the United States, Libyan government assets in the United States were frozen. Interest on those assets continues to accrue to the accounts of the Libyan government. Investments by private Libyan citizens have not been affected.

No responsible nation should feel threatened by sanctions taken in such circumstances. In fact, we believe they should support them.

## Showdown looms in South Africa's black rent boycott

By Rich Nkhondo

Reuter

SOWETO, South Africa — One of the most sustained and expensive black protests against white rule in South Africa could be approaching a showdown.

For 11 months hundreds of thousands of tenants in some 50 black townships across the country have refused to pay rent to back a long list of demands, including the withdrawal of security forces from the townships and the release of political prisoners.

The rent strike is not only a massive gesture of defiance to the state, it has cost authorities an estimated 190 million rand (\$95 million) in lost revenue.

In Soweto township near Johannesburg, 40,000 of the 75,000 dwellings are council-owned, with rents between 52 and 120 rand (\$26 to 60) a month.

The state's initial response to the rent strike was an expensive poster campaign. Huge coloured billboards were erected in the townships proclaiming in the Zulu and Sotho tribal languages and in English that water and electricity services "are a bargain — but even bargains must be paid for."

Last week, the government tried a tougher tactic. It served orders on black anti-apartheid leaders, including Winnie Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, threatening to evict them from their bungalow homes in Soweto if they did not pay rent arrears within seven days.

Mandela, wife of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, and Sisulu, whose husband Walter is also behind bars, both say they will

not pay.

Scores of ordinary Sowetans have already been evicted for refusing to pay rent, leading to large-scale protests which included a three-day strike last month.

But any attempt to evict Mandela, Sisulu or other prominent black figures could trigger an explosion of violence in a township already highly politicised by its long history as a centre of black protest, residents said.

"They pressed the wrong button," said Sisulu, referring to the outbreak of black anger that could accompany the eviction of people like her and Mandela.

"But I am happy they threatened us instead of widows and pensioners who are helpless," Sisulu, leader of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid organisation, told reporters.

The Soweto town council and government officials say the boycott is beginning to break and more tenants have resumed paying rent.

Town clerk Nico Malan said: "We are now collecting over three million rand (\$1.5 million) a month, compared with the normal seven million (\$3.5 million)."

But the Soweto Civic Association, which launched the boycott, disputes this, saying the vast majority of Sowetans are still refusing to pay up.

According to research groups monitoring the boycott, at least 450,000 households, or four million people nationwide, were refusing to pay rent at the beginning of this year. More recent figures are not available.

In one of Soweto's busiest shopping centres, council policemen have removed graffiti saying "We will pay rent when Mandela tells us to."

The townships' black councils that are partly funded by the rent revenues are a key element in the white-led government's policy of meeting the demands by urban blacks for a political voice.

But anti-apartheid organisations, including the UDF which claims two million members, dismiss the councils as a sop aimed at ensuring the continued exclusion of blacks from politics at the national level.

In Soweto in 1978, turn-out for the election of black council members was less than six per cent.

Blacks regard councillors as collaborators with the Pretoria government and they have been targets every time township violence has flared.

The Community Research Group (CRG), a human rights monitoring body based at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, said at least 36 black councils have collapsed because of the financial loss from the rent strikes.

Some political commentators have speculated that a hard line on the rent issue was to be expected after the National Party swept back to power in the white-only election on May 6 which saw a swing in the right.

The commentators note that the government has begun to enforce apartheid laws such as the group areas act, which decrees where people can live according to the colour of their skin, more strictly.

## Unions and students step up protests in El Salvador

By Angus Macswan

Reuter

SAN SALVADOR — A wave of protests by unions and students poses a new challenge to President Jose Napoleon Duarte as disillusionment grows with his government and its failure to end El Salvador's eight-year-old civil war.

Tens of thousands of workers, peasants and students have marched through the capital in three rallies this year calling for Duarte to resign.

The United States is a solid supporter of Duarte and a key source of aid to the government troops fighting leftist guerrillas in the civil war. The U.S. embassy has become a focus of the recent demonstrations.

Leftist students demanding an end to the U.S. involvement last month burned an effigy of Uncle Sam outside the heavily-fortified embassy, hammered on its gate and hurled flaming torches into the compound.

"We are going to have more marches, more strikes," said Marco Tulio Lima, secretary-general of the National Union of Salvadorean Workers (UNTS).

The government and U.S. embassy accuse the unions and students of seeking to provoke a violent confrontation which would discredit the country's fledgling democracy. UNTS leaders say they fear a new wave of repression.

In the early part of this decade the ranks of the political left were decimated by security forces and right-wing death squads which

killed thousands of Salvadoreans. The UNTS, linking about a dozen organisations and claiming 250,000 members, has spearheaded the revival of protest since it was formed in February 1986.

Unpopular austerity measures, rising prices, swelling unemployment and the misery caused by a devastating earthquake last October fuelled discontent with Duarte, who was elected in 1984. Anti-government graffiti seems to be sprayed on almost every wall in San Salvador's seedy centre.

The UNTS calls for Duarte's resignation and demands a negotiated end to the war with a role for the left in a power-sharing government.

"Duarte is a figure who was chosen by the United States for their plan," said Lima. "The Yankees are financing the war. They put the emphasis on a military solution. We want a Salvadorean solution."

The government says the UNTS is a front for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the Marxist-led guerrilla alliance. "I am critical of the government and the United States. That does not make me a guerrilla," Lima said.

Whatever the relationship, a channelling of discontent into political support is vital to the FMLN as it is unlikely to win a battlefield victory over the military. The Nation, a left-leaning

weekly magazine, recently reported that the Reagan administration has tried to divide and destroy the Labour movement because it poses a threat to Duarte.

The article quoted a U.S. embassy cable saying it was "the most serious challenge Duarte has faced to date."

An embassy spokesman, asked to comment, said Washington wanted to "strengthen democratic unions."

An embassy source said, "there has been a return to urban political work by the left. We're concerned."

Days before a rally on May 1, the military said it had uncovered a plot by the FMLN to disrupt it. Lima accused the government of resorting to harassment and repression and said UNTS leader Julio Portillo had received death threats.

Troops have stopped busloads of people coming into the city for rallies. Unlike the popular organisations of the late 1970s, the UNTS has failed to find an ally in the Roman Catholic Church.

Auxiliary Archbishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, at a mass in March commemorating the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, criticised the left for politicising his memory. Romero was shot by suspected rightist gunmen in 1980.

As he spoke workers chanted revolutionary slogans in the square outside the cathedral and students buried paint bombs in the U.S. embassy.







# Sweden gets Cup revenge

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Sweden gained a measure of revenge for last year's Davis Cup final defeat when they beat Australia in the \$750,000 world team cup on Wednesday.

Pat Cash, the hero of Australia's win in Melbourne, failed to capitalise on a match point in the second set to allow Anders Jarryd to fight back for a 1-6, 7-6, 7-5 victory in the second singles.

Earlier, Joakim Nystrom had won a hard-fought three-setter 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 against Paul

McNamee to give the Swedes the lead. Jarryd's win gave Sweden a decisive 2-0 advantage before the doubles.

Jarryd, standing in for world number three Stefan Edberg who suffered a groin strain on Monday, was outclassed in the first set but began to find his touch in the second.

He trailed 6-5 in the tiebreak before winning it 9-7 and then won the decider 7-5 after twice serving for the set at 5-4 and 6-5.

McNamee was unlucky to lose

his match after fighting back from 3-0 down in both the second and third sets. He won the first tiebreak 7-5 but Nystrom was well in control at the crunch, winning the third set tiebreak 7-1.

Sweden have now won both their round robin matches and are well placed to reach Sunday's final in the eight-nation tournament.

In the other red group match, Czechoslovakia and West Germany were level at 1-1 after the singles.

World number five Miloslav Mecir was surprisingly crushed 6-1, 6-1 by West German Eric Jelen, turning in a performance even absent Wimbledon champion Boris Becker might have envied.

Mecir, sometimes brilliant but

occasionally like on Wednesday woefully inept, was totally unable to find his timing one day after his 23rd birthday.

"I didn't know what was happening out there and I didn't know what to do about it," he said.

Jelen, ranked only 64th in the world and with six defeats out of six on clay this year before Wednesday's match, played a patient game and waited for Mecir to make the mistakes.

"The way I played him was exactly right," Jelen said. "If he plays well, he's better than me. I can only beat him when he's not so good."

Milan Srejber levelled the tie by beating Damir Keretic 7-6, 6-4 to leave the issue to be settled by the concluding doubles.



Firas: Silver medal



Tareq: Bronze medal

## India agrees to play Israel in Davis Cup; 'no shift' in stand implied

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The government has permitted the Indian tennis team to play with Israel in the Davis Cup quarter-final round, an official source said Wednesday.

The source said the decision "does not indicate a change in our policy towards Arab nations or our support for the Palestinian cause."

India will host the contest in New Delhi in July, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The decision followed speculation in newspapers that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government was likely to allow the Israeli team into India as part of a new "tennis diplomacy" initiative to improve ties with Israel.

The independent Telegraph newspaper of Calcutta editorialised Wednesday that "the prime minister has clearly decided that

the time has come to play the Israeli card. For 40 years now India has been more loyal to the Arab cause than many of the Arabs themselves."

India has no diplomatic relations with Israel but recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Khalid Al Sheikh, the PLO ambassador in New Delhi, expressed surprise at New Delhi's decision. He said his mission had not been told by the government that the Israeli team would be permitted to play in India.

Press reports said India has not played Israel in any international tournament since the 1974 Asian Games, an apparent indication of its political opposition to Israel's Middle East policy.

But the source said India played with Israel in table tennis tournaments in Belgrade in 1981 and in Tokyo in 1983.

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AMMAN DEFEATS QADISIEH 2 TO 0: Qadisiyah player Maher Hantash (left) jumps over Amman players to head the ball during a match held on Tuesday night between Amman and Qadisiyah clubs. The match, held within the Association Shield Tournament, was

won by Amman. The triumph qualified Amman to meet Al Faisali in the semifinals on Friday night. The winners will Monday take on Addu-tein club in the final match (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

### American National League roundup

## Cincinnati loss boosts Giants

NEW YORK (AP) — The San Francisco Giants are doing it with Mirrors and manager Roger Craig thinks they look mighty good atop the National League (NL) West.

"We haven't played well, but the amazing thing is we're still in first place," Craig said after the Giants beat the Montreal Expos 6-2 Tuesday night for only their second victory in the last eight games.

But Cincinnati's 9-2 loss to Chicago not only allowed the Giants to move a half-game ahead of the Reds but also gave the Cubs a one-game lead in the NL East over St. Louis, which lost to Atlanta 6-5.

The Giants have played much of the season with three-fourths of their infield — second baseman Robby Thompson, shortstop Jose Uribe and third baseman Chris Brown — on the disabled list. And their starting pitchers may as well have been disabled; Mike Lacoss' seven-inning effort marked the first time in nine games a starter has lasted past the sixth inning.

In other NL games, Pittsburgh beat Houston 5-2 and New York edged San Diego 5-4. The Los Angeles-Philadelphia game was rained out.

San Francisco's Jeffrey Leonard hit a solo home run in the first inning and a two-run

homer in the third as the Giants snapped Montreal's four-game winning streak. They added three runs in the fourth on Bob Melvin's homer, Thompson's double, Matt Williams' RBI single, a stolen base and Mark Wasinger's single.

The Giants did all their damage against Floyd Youmans, who was making his first appearance after spending 15 days on the disabled list with a back strain.

Rick Sutcliffe became the NL's first seven-game winner as the Cubs won their fifth in a row. Chicago rapped out 15 hits, including four singles by Andre Dawson and three by Jody Davis,

## Jaite gives Argentina lead over defending champion France

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — Martin Jaite sparked Argentina to a 2-1 upset victory over defending champion France in the opening group match of the \$750,000 Peugeot World Team Cup Tennis Tournament.

Czechoslovakia rolled over Australia 3-0 in the other group match played Tuesday. Meanwhile, the trainer for

Sweden's Stefan Edberg said the world's number 3 player suffered a groin injury in Monday's play and might have to miss the French Open that starts next week in Paris.

Jaite, a runnerup at last week's Italian Open, clinched victory for his country by beating France's Henri Leconte 7-7, 7-6 after veteran Guillermo Vilas had downed Thierry Tulasne 7-6, 6-2

in the opening match of the day. In doubles play, Leconte teamed with Guy Forget to defeat Jaite and Vilas 6-4, 6-3.

In the other group, Miloslav Mecir beat Pat Cash 6-4, 7-6 and Milan Srejber defeated Wally Masur 6-3, 7-6 to give Czechoslovakia a decisive 2-0 edge against Australia.

Mecir and Tomas Smid then defeated Cash and Paul McNamee 6-1, 6-4 to complete the whitewash.

Jaite's victory over Leconte was full of tense moments. The Frenchman held three set points in the first set before losing it 7-5 in the tiebreaker.

Leconte then saved two match points in an equally tight second set at 5-6 before going down 7-1 in the tiebreaker that followed. Mecir celebrated his 23rd birthday with his victory over Cash. But the unpredictable Czechoslo-

## Soviet gymnasts set to dominate Europe

MOSCOW (R) — A new generation of Soviet gymnasts looks set to continue the country's domination of the European Gymnastics Championships starting here on Thursday.

The rise of new young Soviet talent has done much to counter the absence of European champion Dmitri Belozzerchev, and they look capable of winning the overall individual title for the eighth time in the last nine championships.

Soviet experts predict a tough struggle for first place between world titleholder Yuri Korolev and recently crowned Soviet champion Valery Lyukin, a 20-year-old student who is the pick of a group of promising newcomers.

The other main challengers for the title Belozzerchev won in Oslo in 1985 before he was banned from the national squad after breaking a leg while driving when intoxicated, were mainly from the East Bloc, they said.

East German Sylvio Karoli was likely to provide the toughest challenge, but strong opposition in some events could also come from Hungary and the rising Swiss, the experts said.

In the women's events, world champion Yelena Shushunova, 17, looks set to retain the overall European title after hitting form by winning the Soviet championships earlier this year.

Like the Soviet men, who have won the championship 11 times out of 16, the women have dominated the championships.

### THE Daily Crossword by Frank Geary

ACROSS

- 1 Division word
- 2 Solo
- 3 Solitude
- 4 Vault
- 5 Peals
- 6 Genesis name
- 7 Michigan or Huron
- 8 Relax
- 9 Obsured
- 10 Made even
- 11 Moderate red
- 12 Refugee gp.
- 13 Altar
- 14 Contributes
- 15 Exclamation
- 16 Equivocal
- 17 Surrealist painter
- 18 Hamlets
- 19 Pigeon pea
- 20 Inquired
- 21 Therefore
- 22 Woodland
- 23 Holiday time
- 24 Breastbone
- 25 Cylindrical and tapering
- 26 — Aviv
- 27 Eupire
- 28 Carouse
- 29 — the hole
- 30 Swiss city
- 31 Sumblies
- 32 — Jilly
- 33 Infrequently
- 34 Curt
- 35 Take out
- 36 Scram
- 37 Student in Paris
- 38 Faction
- 39 Fruit drinks
- 40 Popeye is one
- 41 Doorway curtain
- 42 Roman rooms
- 43 Steamboat man
- 44 Homily: abbr.
- 45 Tree house
- 46 Get away
- 47 Geb
- 48 Inclined way
- 49 Migrant farmer
- 50 Eng. school
- 51 "My Friend"
- 52 Shipshape
- 53 Pipe joint
- 54 Hit sign letters
- 55 Stabber or Barry

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OTIC EIDE AROMA  
MERITWETTERLEWIS  
SPILLAGE SETS SIA  
HERIOD SURE STAO  
OBERGONTERITORY  
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HAGDON TRAE OILY  
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Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625153  
**SUDDEN DEATH**  
Performances 3:15, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573  
**NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN**  
Performances 3:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 6774201  
**DIAMOND HAUL**  
Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198  
**CLASH OF THE NINJAS**  
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

دري، في 1/10



## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6877/87	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3460/70	Canadian dollar
	1.7690/7700	West German marks
	2.9940/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4500/10	Swiss francs
	36.64/57	Belgian francs
	5.9190/9240	French francs
	1283/1284	Italian lira
	139.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.2050/2100	Swedish crown
	6.5775/5825	Norwegian crowns
	6.6550/6600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	480.60/481.10	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The threat of a fresh crisis over lending to Third World countries and an opinion poll showing a narrowing in the gap between the ruling Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party pushed shares down sharply Wednesday morning and kept prices near the lows throughout the day, dealers said.

By 1415 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 40.9 to 2,173.4, after an earlier low of 2,170.7.

Wall Street's sharp sell off overnight looked set to be continued at the opening there Wednesday and could send shares here yet lower in late trading. Rising U.S. inflation and interest rates have been worrying U.K. investors recently.

Long standing worries about Third World bank debt exposure were resurrected on Wednesday after news that Citicorp is adding \$3 billion to its loan loss reserves and foresees a second quarter loss of \$2.5 billion.

A statement from the Bank of England that it expects a continuing increase in the level of provisions at U.K. banks for potential loan losses in the sovereign lending sector further deepened the gloom surrounding bank shares here.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1987

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** If you have anything of particular importance to be attended to, it should be done now to avoid the delays and obstacles on the horizon. Don't do anything drastic.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** You can handle a private affair very wisely. Roll up your sleeves and get to work with a vengeance.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Listen to the views of a good friend. Your mate may be disturbed, but keep poised and take this in stride.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** You can handle an outside matter with alacrity. Don't try to get the aid of others with your projects.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** You get an inspiring idea today, so get it in motion. Use tact and tenacity for best results.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Settle an account wisely. Show your mate he's moody, blame it on the planets. Show that you can be patient.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** An outside associate has good ideas for your mutual advancement. Don't invite guests into your home now.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** It's a good day to listen to what an outside partner has to advise. Much care in driving is needed today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Try a new tact with the tasks before you and get good results. Try not to commit yourself now.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Get out to find places and forget your worries, but don't try to force your ideas on others.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Place your efforts on home and family today. A close tie may be upset, but take this in stride.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** Place more effort on your regular duties. Forget the social life all together. Get your wardrobe in order.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** Think about how to handle your material affairs in a better way. Don't try to gain favors from bigwigs.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY** ... he, or she, will be one of those charming young people who should be taught to think along more conventional lines. By not completing things, your progeny could find much trouble, especially in school. Add psychology courses to help curb this child's spark.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1987

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Today finds you able to get to those who have the knowledge or the power to make your dreams come true. But wait for more specific plans before taking action.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Get your tasks well organized. Curb that tendency to go after your personal aims too quickly.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** A fine pal is helpful with your personal goals. Try not to be too demanding with your mate.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** You have an opportunity to get a worldly matter in fine order. Nnt a good day to push your personal wishes.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** You get a sudden inspiration! Get a good start on your activities. Venture out and be social tonight.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Find the proper way to keep any promises you have made. Don't go off on any tangents that could prove dangerous.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** A long talk with an outside partner may bring good results. Be patient with your mate and don't criticize.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** You know how to handle present tasks more efficiently. Don't permit an associate to bother you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Plan time for the recreations you like. Be most conscientious in handling your work load.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Make everything at home as you want it to be, then handle difficult problems in creative matters.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Study every phase of the messages you get, then answer them. Be patient in any home situations.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** You can handle your practical affairs well. Be careful in your correspondence or telephone calls.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** You can gain your personal ambitions now. Don't do anything that could endanger your security.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY** ... he, or she, will be most capable at understanding idealistic ideas and carry through with them to a successful conclusion, but the adulthood is apt to be unstable in this area. Self control will soon be learned, however, and then much success is possible here.

## W. Germany to reduce stake in national airline

FRANKFURT (R) — Lufthansa, the West German airline, said Tuesday the government would reduce its stake in the company.

The airline said it planned to raise 810 million marks (\$450 million) by issuing new shares, but that the government would contribute only 312 million marks (\$173 million).

"That means that the share of private shareholders will rise," Lufthansa said in a statement.

Public authorities would still own over 75 per cent of the airline after the transaction. The federal government, the post office, railways, a state bank and the state of North Rhine Westphalia now own 82 per cent of all Lufthansa shares and 90 per cent of shares with voting rights.

Political sources in Bonn said the move was in line with government policy of expanding private ownership of public companies.

But it stopped short of the sell-off of the airline sought by Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

That was vigorously opposed by Bavarian right-winger, Mr. Franz Josef Strauss, head of the Christian Social Union, partners in the Bonn coalition.

Mr. Stoltenberg has tried to sell off part of the government's stake in Lufthansa since Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition came to power in 1982.

But Mr. Strauss, chief of Lufthansa's supervisory board and also head of the West German wing of the European Airbus consortium, has said this is not in the national interest.

Lufthansa also said it planned at a later stage to issue more non-voting shares, but that this would not affect the government's ability to control Lufthansa.

The political sources believed Mr. Strauss was still opposed to privatising the airline but said he would not have objected in this reduction in the government's stake, which maintains state control.

Since 1982, the government has privatised the industrial giant Veba and it also plans to sell its share of carmaker Volkswagen to the public.

## World Bank approves \$500m credit to Argentina

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank on Tuesday approved \$500 million in credit to support fundamental reforms in Argentina's foreign trade.

A statement by the 151-nation body said the loan was designed to make Argentine exports more competitive. The credit was extended for a 15-year period, including three years of grace, at a variable interest rate, currently at 7.92 per cent.

This is the largest per-capita loan ever granted by the bank. Bank officials said it was approved with the support of the United States and all the major industrialised nations.

The bank, which assists in economic and social development, said that in addition to the loan, it is considering a project of export promotion that would remove all the barriers on the country's foreign trade.

That would include a three-year phasing out of all restrictions on the import of raw materials to Argentina in order to promote industrial growth, the statement said.

The bank said the new programme would encourage international bankers to make additional investments in Argentina and result in economic growth, the creation of new jobs and a healthy balance of payments in Argentina.

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## Citicorp debt move rings alarm bells in world financial markets

LONDON (R) — Worries about Third World debt and the health of the banking system Wednesday sent the gold price to its highest since early 1983.

The dollar slipped, and share and bond prices tumbled across the globe in financial markets fretting after a move Tuesday by Citicorp, the world's largest bank group, effectively writing off \$3 billion of its loans in developing nations.

Tokyo's stock market took the second biggest one-day nosedive in its history.

Later, however, dealers in Europe grew somewhat less nervous. The dollar steadied and gold — a safe haven for investors in time of stress in the global economy — eased back from \$483 an ounce to a London morning setting at \$479.95.

Still, that was nearly \$10 up on Tuesday night's London price and the highest London "fix" since February, 1983.

The dollar at midday in Europe fetched around 139.60 yen, after dipping as low as 139.30. It had ended in London Tuesday night just above 140 yen.

The announcement came too late for U.S. markets but rumours that Citicorp planned a debt move preceded it and they sent U.S. treasury bonds, the dollar and stocks into a slide. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average closed 37 points down at 2,258.8.

Next, in Tokyo's stock market took its second biggest one-day dive on record and the Nikkei average closed Wednesday 658.28 points down at 23,419.60.

Tokyo stock and bond markets plunged on what bankers said were worried that Third World debt exposure may throw the health of the world financial systems into doubt.

"Japanese banks also lend much money to Latin American countries," said Mr. Toranobu Sugai, vice president for Japanese equity trade at Shearson Lehman Brothers' Tokyo branch.

Japan is the largest creditor nation. The selloff in the Tokyo stock market centred on financial shares, particularly banks, securities houses and insurance.

The jitters spread to Europe when the dealers in money, and in the investment instruments in which the affluent world keeps its savings and pensions, flicked on their screens there.

In London, where the weaker dollar was also a worry, the Financial Times stock exchange index of 100 leading shares at midday was 35.6 down at 2,178.7. Bank shares fell, with Lloyds, for instance, off 35 pence (60 cents) at \$5.50 (\$9.24) in early trading.

Dealers said the London falls would have been more substantial but for optimism about a Conservative Party majority in the June 11 general election.

London prices of U.S. government bonds fell more than 3/8 of a percentage point in early trading. Dealers said the market was nervous, with selling pressure coming from Japanese and European accounts.

The Frankfurt bourse opened lower. The 50-share Paris bourse indicator fell 1.7 per cent in early business.

But as the trading day wore on, and analysts in the dealing rooms struggled to puzzle out the implications of Citicorp's action, there was some feeling that the initial "knee-jerk" reaction might have been overdone. So the dollar steadied and gold came off its highs.

Mr. Franz Luetolf, general manager of Swiss Bank Corp., said in Zurich that the Citicorp move was an important step in handling the debt crisis.

Mr. Luetolf, who coordinates his bank's debt strategy, told Reuters: "I welcome this step. It's absolutely right. We banks have to build up reserves. People will very quickly realise that the increase in reserves will have a stabilising effect."

Mr. Luetolf said he doubted the Citicorp move would encourage debtors to feel that old loans did not need to be repaid.

"It is absolutely a sign of strength," he said.

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"A) — The necessity of adhering to the agreement which OPEC reached last December on production levels for each member and the production ceiling for each period of that year and

B) — To stick to the oil prices set in the last OPEC agreement in order to maintain oil market stability and the balance between supply and demand until the end of December 1987."

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UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba had said this month his country would ignore its quota if the level were not raised in June. But it was not clear at the time whether he was insisting on more than the increase provisionally allotted in December.

The December accord envisaged the UAE quota rising from 902,000 b/d in the first half to 948,000 in the third quarter and 1,045 million in the fourth.

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